The Senate met at 9 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. Thurmond).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Rev. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Lord, You have loved, forgiven, and cared for us. In Your holy presence, any self-sufficiency fades like a candlelight before the rising sun. Awaken us again to the wonder of Your unqualified grace. May the radiance of Your Spirit invade our hearts, vanishing all the gloom and darkness of worry and fear and anxiety.

Father, set us free to do our work today with joy and gladness. The people in our lives desperately need Your love. Liberate us with the sure knowledge of Your unending love so that we will be able to be free to love unselfishly. Speak to us now so that we may be energized with new life and new power. We claim this in the assurance of Your love divine, all loves excelling! Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Thurmond). The able acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. Thomas. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I will lay out the plan for today.

This morning, the Senate will be in a period for morning business until 9:30 a.m. Following morning business, under a previous order, the Senate will begin consideration of the Department of Defense appropriations bill. All Members are encouraged to come to the floor early during today’s session to offer and debate any amendments to the defense bill. The first votes of today’s session will occur in a stacked series beginning at approximately 2 p.m. These votes will include any remaining amendments to the Treasury appropriations bill and possibly several amendments to the defense bill. Members should expect votes late into the evening during today’s session, as the Senate attempts to complete action on the defense bill.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Thomas). Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. Grassley and Mr. Hagel pertaining to the introduction of S. 2371 are located in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Hagel). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. Thomas, Mr. Craig and Mr. Roberts pertaining to the introduction of S. 2371 are located in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)